



*Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

SECURITY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS – SAUDI NATIONAL DAY

September 19, 2012

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh wishes to remind all U.S. citizens in Saudi Arabia to exercise caution during Saudi National Days, Saturday and Sunday, September 22 and 23, 2012. Three years ago in the Eastern Province, revelers vandalized stores on the Khobar Corniche. In the past two years, large groups of Saudi nationals participated in gatherings around the Kingdom which caused traffic jams, overcrowding in some areas, and closing of some malls, and led to acts of vandalism. The mood was generally jubilant and friendly with lots of flag waving and cheering, but any large gathering of people has the potential to become unruly.

U.S. citizens are advised to avoid large crowds or public gatherings. Please be aware that even gatherings intended to be peaceful can quickly escalate into violence without cause. Regardless of where you are, it is always advisable to keep your security and situational awareness levels high. As a precaution, please follow these good personal security practices:

- Avoid crowds or large gatherings;
- Minimize your profile while in public;
- Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;
- Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;
- Tell workers or neighbors where you are going and when you intend to return;
- Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;
- Always carry a cell phone, and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (01-488-3800), U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (03-330-3200) and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (02-667-0080). The emergency number for Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999.

Please report any concerns and demonstrations you may experience to the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh or the Consulates General in Dhahran and Jeddah.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#) can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review ["A Safe Trip Abroad."](#) which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. You can also download our free [Smart Traveler](#) App, available through [iTunes](#) and the [Android market](#) to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444.

These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

[U.S. Embassy Riyadh](#)

Telephone: (966) (1) 488-3800

Fax: (966) (1) 483-0773.

[U.S. Consulate General Dhahran](#)

Telephone: (966) (3) 330-3200

Fax: (966) (3) 330-0464.

[U.S. Consulate General Jeddah](#)

Telephone: (966) (2) 667-0080

Fax: (966) (2) 669-3078 or 669-3098.

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<http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/amcitmessages.html>.

Riyadh ACS Website: <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/service.html>